and Applications in Gujarat" to facilitate procurement of a set of geophysical survey instruments and creating necessary infrastructure.

Road accidents in Delhi

2621. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 1800 people, majority of them pedestrians, were killed in road accidents in Delhi alone during 2004;

(b) if so, with the spread of urbanization and vehicle revolution whether this spiraling death count needs urgent attention; and

(c) what effective comprehensive steps Government are proposing to adopt so that road accidents could be reduced to the minimum, not only in the urban regions, but on the Highways also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) As per information obtained from Delhi Police, 1851 persons were killed in road accidents during the year 2004, out of which 915 persons were pedestrians.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Problems associated with urbanization and public transport are primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. As far as Delhi is concerned, enforcement of road safety measures comes under the purview of Govt, of NCT of Delhi and Delhi Police. Some of the steps taken by them are:—

(i) Comprehensive Programme for mass education of the public particularly of school children. For this purpose, 200 Road Safety Clubs have been established in schools and 101 NGOs have been associated;

(ii) Distribution of Road Safety Literature among various categories of road users;

(iii) Training of professional drivers of buses and commercial vehicles; (iv) Rigid enforcement of traffic rules in Delhi; (v) Concerted action against drunken driving, reckless driving, minor's driving, red light jumping, over speeding etc.;

(vi) Segregation of fast moving traffic from slow moving traffic; (vii) Closure of gaps in the central verges on accident' prone roads;

(viii) Provision of bus bays, yellow boxes, bus boxes etc. on city roads;

(ix) Introduction of traffic signals/blinkers in accident-prone areas;

(x) Mobile patrolling and group checking at vulnerable accident locations.

As far as minimizing accidents on National Highways are concerned, besides highway design, some of the important steps taken by the Central Government are as under:—

(i) Grants-in-aid to voluntary organizations for administering road safety programmes.

(ii) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness-through audio-visual-print media.

(iii) Encouraging use of simulators in driver's training.

(iv) Institution of National Award for voluntary organizations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety.

(v) Organizing All India Essay Competition on road safety for school children with a view to creating awareness.

(vi) Tightening of fitness norms for transport vehicles.

(vii) Widening and improvements of National Highways, etc.

Termination of contracts by NHAI

2622. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highways Authority of India has terminated seven contracts during 2004-05;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the legal action taken by the NHAI against the contractors, in case they failed to discharge their contractual obligation according to the terms of the contracts; and

(c) the additional cost likely to be incurred by NHAI to get the affected works completed and extra time likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Five contracts were terminated by National Highways Authority of India during 2004-05.

(b) and (c) The details are given at enclosed Statement.